

## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

Claim 1 (Newly Amended) A therapeutic combination comprising an amount of a **selective** COX-2 inhibitor compound source and an amount of a sex steroid compound wherein the amount of a **selective** COX-2 inhibitor compound source and the amount of the sex steroid compound together comprises a dysmenorrhea-effective amount of the compounds.

Claim 2 (Original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the COX-2 inhibitor source is a COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 3 (Original) The combination of Claim 2 wherein COX-2 inhibitor is a tricyclic COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 4 (Original) The combination of Claim 3 wherein the tricyclic COX-2 inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of a pyrazole COX-2 inhibitor, a furanone COX-2 inhibitor, an isoxazole COX-2 inhibitor, a pyridine COX-2 inhibitor, and a pyridazinone COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 5 (Original) The combination of Claim 4 wherein the tricyclic COX-2 inhibitor is a pyrazole COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 6 (Original) The combination of Claim 5 wherein the tricyclic COX-2 inhibitor is celecoxib.

Claim 7 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 5 wherein the tricyclic COX-2 inhibitor is deracoxib.

Claim 8 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 4 wherein the tricyclic COX-2 inhibitor is a furanone COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 9 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 8 wherein the tricyclic COX-2 inhibitor is rofecoxib.

Claim 10 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 4 wherein the tricyclic COX-2 inhibitor is an isoxazole COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 11 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 10 wherein the tricyclic COX-2 inhibitor is valdecoxib.

Claim 12 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 4 wherein the tricyclic COX-2 inhibitor is a pyridine COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 13 (Previously Withdrawn) . The combination of Claim 12 wherein the tricyclic COX-2 inhibitor is 5-chloro-6'-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2,3'-bipyridine.

Claim 14 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 4 wherein the tricyclic COX-2 inhibitor is a pyridazinone COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 15 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 14 wherein the pyridazinone COX-2 inhibitor is 2-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-(3-hydroxy-3-methylbutoxy)-5-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-3(2H)-pyridazinone.

Claim 16 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 2 wherein the COX-2 inhibitor is a benzopyran COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 17 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 2 wherein the COX-2 inhibitor is a methane sulfonanilide COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 18 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 17 wherein the methane sulfonanilide COX-2 inhibitor is N-(4-nitro-2-cyclohexyloxyphenyl)methanesulfonamide.

Claim 19 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the COX-2 inhibitor source is a prodrug of a COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 20 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 19 wherein the prodrug of the COX-2 inhibitor is parecoxib.

Claim 21 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the sex steroid compound is a progestin sex steroid.

Claim 22 (Original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the sex steroid compound is an estrogen sex steroid.

Claim 23 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 22 wherein the sex steroid compound further comprises a progestin sex steroid.

Claim 24 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 23 wherein the sex steroid compound comprises an amount of an estrogen sex steroid and an amount of a progestin sex steroid wherein the amount of the estrogen sex steroid and the amount of the progestin sex steroid together comprise a menstrual cycle controlling-effective amount of the compounds.

Claim 25 (Original) The combination of Claim 24 wherein the estrogen sex steroid is ethinyl estradiol.

Claim 26 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 24 wherein the progestin sex steroid is selected from the group consisting of levonorgestrel, norethindrone acetate, norgestimate, ethynodiol acetate, desogestrel, norgestrel and norethindrone.

Claim 27 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 26 wherein the progestin sex steroid is levonorgestrel.

Claim 28 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 26 wherein the progestin sex steroid is norethindrone acetate.

Claim 29 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 26 wherein the progestin sex steroid is norgestimate.

Claim 30 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 26 wherein the progestin sex steroid is ethynodiol acetate.

Claim 31 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 26 wherein the progestin sex steroid is desogestrel.

Claim 32 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 26 wherein the progestin sex steroid is norgestrel.

Claim 33 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination of Claim 26 wherein the progestin sex steroid is norethindrone.

Claim 34 (Original) The combination of Claim 1 wherein the COX-2 inhibitor compound source and the sex steroid compound are present in a single composition.

Claim 35 (Previously Withdrawn) A combination therapy method for the treatment or prophylaxis of dysmenorrhea in a patient in need thereof, comprising:  
administering to the patient an amount of a COX-2 inhibitor compound source  
and administering to the patient an amount of a sex steroid compound wherein  
the amount of the COX-2 inhibitor compound source and the amount of the sex  
steroid compound together comprise a dysmenorrhea-effective amount of the  
compounds

Claim 36 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 35  
wherein the COX-2 inhibitor source is a COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 37 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 36  
wherein the COX-2 inhibitor compound is celecoxib.

Claim 38 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 36  
wherein the COX-2 inhibitor compound is rofecoxib.

Claim 39 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 36  
wherein the COX-2 inhibitor compound is valdecoxib.

Claim 40 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 36  
wherein the COX-2 inhibitor compound is deracoxib.

Claim 41 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 36  
wherein the COX-2 inhibitor compound is 5-chloro-6'-methyl-3-[4-  
(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2,3'-bipyridine.

Claim 42 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 36  
wherein the COX-2 inhibitor compound is N-(4-nitro-2-  
phenoxyphenyl)methanesulfonamide.

Claim 43 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 36 wherein the COX-2 inhibitor compound is 2-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-(3-hydroxy-3-methylbutoxy)-5-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-3(2H)-pyridazinone.

Claim 44 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 35 wherein the COX-2 inhibitor source is a prodrug of a COX-2 inhibitor.

Claim 45 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 44 wherein the prodrug of the COX-2 inhibitor is parecoxib.

Claim 46 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 35 wherein the sex steroid compound comprises an amount of an estrogen sex steroid and an amount of a progestin sex steroid wherein the amount of the estrogen sex steroid and the amount of the progestin sex steroid together comprise a menstrual cycle controlling-effective amount of the compounds.

Claim 47 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 46 wherein the estrogen sex steroid is ethinyl estradiol.

Claim 48 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 46 wherein the progestin sex steroid is selected from the group consisting of levonorgestrel, norethindrone acetate, norgestimate, ethynodiol acetate, desogestrel, norgestrel and norethindrone.

Claim 49 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 48 wherein the progestin sex steroid is levonorgestrel.

Claim 50 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 48 wherein the progestin sex steroid is norethindrone acetate.

Claim 51 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 48 wherein the progestin sex steroid is norgestimate.

Claim 52 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 48 wherein the progestin sex steroid is ethynodiol acetate.

Claim 53 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 48 wherein the progestin sex steroid is desogestrel.

Claim 54 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 48 wherein the progestin sex steroid is norgestrel.

Claim 55 (Previously Withdrawn) The combination therapy method of Claim 48 wherein the progestin sex steroid is norethindrone.